United Nations E/2014/SR.23

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2014

Original: English

Substantive session of 2014
Second coordination and management meeting

Summary record of the 23rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 12 June 2014, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) ..... (Republic of Korea)

Contents

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Social development

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*continued*)

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(d) Human settlements

Dialogue with the representative of the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org)

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

14-55299 (E)

Please recycle

In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Social development (A/69/61-E/2014/4; E/2014/26-E/CN.5/2014/10)

1. **Mr. Gonnot** (Department for Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (A/69/61-E/2014/4), said that a focus on the family allowed better integration of policies and programmes to combat persistent development problems, particularly the intergenerational transmission of poverty and inequalities, and was often more effective than a focus on women and children only. Family policies must also be promoted in support of work-family balance, including the equal sharing of family responsibilities and the promotion of responsible fatherhood. Taking families into account as actors and beneficiaries in the context of the post-2015 development agenda would be a step in the direction of empowerment and reduction of inequalities and would thereby contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

2. **Ms. Adhikari** (Nepal), Chair of the Commission for Social Development for the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, presenting the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session (E/2014/26-E/CN.5/2014/10), said that, during the session, the Commission had held three high-level panel discussions on promoting the empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, and full employment and decent work for all. The importance of empowerment in accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and of carrying forward unfinished business to the post-2015 development agenda had been highlighted, as had the need for policymakers to understand the social drivers of development outcomes and focus on poverty eradication. The importance of ensuring the effective participation of social groups in the post-2015 processes had been stressed, and, in the light of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, the inclusion of a family focus in the post-2015 agenda had been proposed. The Commission had also examined and discussed the report of the Special Rapporteur on disability. It had been noted that numerous mechanisms and elements were required to ensure sustainable development, including open and transparent institutions, respect for human rights, impartial judicial systems, social protection mechanisms, access to decent work, democratic governance and the rule of law. In addition, sustained partnerships must be forged between all sectors and relevant stakeholders to achieve better development results, and the internationally agreed goals and commitments in relation to official development assistance, debt relief, market access, financial stability, capacity-building and technical support must be fulfilled.

3. **Ms. Miculescu** (Romania), Chair of the Commission for Social Development for the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions, recalled that 2015 would be the twentieth anniversary of the consensus reached by Governments on the need to place people at the centre of development. That lent critical importance to the work of the Commission because, without social development, the other two pillars of development, economic growth and environmental protection, would not be sustainable. The draft resolution on future organization and methods of work currently before the Council reflected the Commission's efforts to fully support the strengthening of the Council and identified ways for the Commission to consider the Council's themes in its work and reporting. The Commission would continue to strive to align its work with that of the Council.

4. During the transition period to the post-2015 development agenda, the Commission would maintain its two-year review and policy cycle with the priority theme of "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world". In its February 2015 session, it would take stock of progress in social development to lay the foundations of a forward-looking social policy framework for the realization of sustainable development. In the February 2016 session, the Commission would further align its work with the implementation of the global development agenda adopted by the General Assembly by focusing on action-oriented outcomes. The emerging issues theme, which was expected to be decided in late 2014, would also be used to align the Commission's work with that of the annual theme of the Council. The Commission counted on the support

of the Council to ensure the success of those two sessions and the ambitious and relevant work planned under the post-2015 development agenda.

5. **Ms. Stewart** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that she agreed that the current session was an important opportunity to think about how to bring the three dimensions of sustainable development together and establish effective links between them under the umbrella of the Council. ILO was committed to working closely and cooperatively with the Commission in the pursuit of those aims in the changing context of the United Nations development agenda.

The meeting was suspended at 3.30 p.m. and resumed at 3.50 p.m.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-second session (E/2014/26–E/CN.5/2014/10)

6. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

Draft resolution II: Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Draft resolution III: Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all

Draft resolution IV: Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the post-2015 development agenda

Draft resolution V: Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Draft resolution VI: Observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

7. *Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV, V and VI were adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision I: Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission for Social Development

Draft decision II: Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-second session

8. *Draft decisions I and II were adopted.*

Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (*continued*) (E/2014/L.12)

Draft resolution E/2014/L.12: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

9. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. *Draft resolution E/2014/L.12 was adopted.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(d) Human settlements (E/2014/64)

11. **Ms. Djacta** (Director, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2014/64), said that the report highlighted the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in cooperation with United Nations system organizations, intergovernmental and international organizations and other partners to implement the Habitat Agenda at the global, regional and national levels. UN-Habitat had actively participated in the post-2015 development agenda and, partly as a result of its efforts, the contribution of urbanization to sustainable development had been increasingly recognized.

12. In the light of the issues addressed in the report, UN-Habitat called on Member States to give appropriate consideration in their national development plans to the role of urbanization in sustainable development; to implement urban planning policies that enhanced economic productivity and equity; to apply more systematically urban planning methods adapted to the needs of incremental urbanization

standards and compact, better integrated and connected urban development patterns; to use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth and thereby prevent slum proliferation; and to facilitate the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in national preparatory processes for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

Dialogue with the representative of the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

13. **Ms. Petrova** (United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination) said that the Board had held a formal meeting on 8 May 2014 at the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome. On the same occasion, the Board had held its third review of implementation of the MDGs at the country level. The meeting had been followed by a retreat during which executive heads had exchanged views on the post-2015 development agenda, with a particular focus on ways to support Member States in formulating and implementing the new sustainable development framework.

14. The Board's review mechanism had been established in November 2012 by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the President of the World Bank. Each review had identified bottlenecks and determined practical steps that the United Nations system could take to remedy them. Three countries had been included in the third review: Benin on Goal 7 regarding water and sanitation, Colombia on inequalities in the overall implementation of the MDGs, and the Philippines on Goal 5 regarding maternal health, with an additional focus on sustaining development gains in the face of natural disasters. The respective United Nations resident coordinators and World Bank country directors had engaged in dialogue with the Board. Participants had observed that the review had already created a strong momentum for improved multilateral collaboration and had helped accelerate progress towards meeting the goals at the country level. The review had produced significant changes in the eight countries that had previously been covered. The Board would continue to monitor those results until the end of 2015 as part of its overall effort to review the MDGs.

15. The Board's discussion of the post-2015 development agenda had focused on how the United Nations system collectively could support Member States in making the transition to a new sustainable development agenda. Its deliberations had been informed by a joint contribution prepared by its three high-level committees, namely the High-Level Committee on Programmes, the High-Level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which had sought to provide clarity on the programme-related, operational and management aspects of the agenda that was currently being formulated by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The members of the Board had been united in their conviction that the United Nations needed to seize the opportunity to ensure that it was well equipped to support Member States in formulating and delivering the new agenda. The Board had identified five interrelated elements as crucial for the agenda: universality, equality, integration, human rights and the need for a data revolution. Board members had also reflected on the institutional, financial and governance implications for the United Nations system of a universal and integrated development framework. The system must take a more strategic and fitter approach in order to deliver effective support to Member States.

16. As part of its formal session, the Board had also discussed the means, particularly financial, to implement the post-2015 development agenda. Its reflections had focused on the need, which had been identified by Member States, for a coherent and coordinated United Nations system response in support of a broad and holistic financial framework. It had observed that the post-2015 financing framework should build on the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, and should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner. In view of the sizeable financial needs, resources should be mobilized from all sources, including the national and international levels and the public and private sectors. Board members had expressed their commitment to working together to contribute to a successful third International Conference on Financing for Development. The Board and its subsidiary bodies would continue to explore key issues related to the

post-2015 development agenda in the light of the evolving intergovernmental discussions.

17. The High-Level Committee on Programmes had considered the priority issue of climate change and had renewed the mandate of its working group on climate change for another two years. Since its establishment in 2008, the working group had endeavoured to enhance coordination among United Nations organizations in support of Member States' efforts to tackle climate change. Over the following two years, it would seek more effectively to mobilize and disseminate the knowledge and services offered by the United Nations system in order to help generate momentum for an ambitious agreement and foster sustained practical action. In that context, the working group was developing a joint United Nations publication for the Climate Summit 2014 to be held in New York. The publication would seek to show how climate action could support sustainable development and how the United Nations system was supporting Member States' efforts.

18. The Board had also discussed the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which would be held in Apia, Samoa, in September 2014. It had endorsed a joint statement to the Conference on behalf of the United Nations system, expressing its strong commitment to the Conference and to a more coherent approach to small island developing States. A number of Board principals would join the Secretary-General at a high-level side event on 1 September 2014.

19. The High-Level Committee on Programmes had for the first time considered the issue of sustainable urbanization, in preparation for Habitat III, which would be held in 2016. It had sought to foster a deeper understanding of the key drivers of the new urban agenda and strengthen system-wide coordination in that area.

20. The High-Level Committee on Management had discussed the safety and security of United Nations staff in high-risk environments. The work of the Organization around the world was becoming increasingly dangerous, and between 20 and 25 staff members were killed every year. The United Nations system must continue to improve its policies and mechanisms in order to ensure continuity of operations while fulfilling its duty of care. The High-Level Committee on Management had therefore begun a comprehensive review of the relevant security, medical and managerial issues. In accordance with the provisions of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the High-Level Committee on Management had also focused on innovation in the areas of human resources, finance and information technology. Legal and administrative models were being developed to facilitate the common procurement of vehicles, which could generate significant savings. Similar frameworks could then be used for other high-value commodities. Collaborative procurement arrangements had proved successful in Geneva and Rome, and similar initiatives focusing on joint contracts for travel, stationery, courier services and telecommunications were being launched in New York and Copenhagen. Common treasury services had also brought considerable savings; in 2011 and 2012, the 12 participating United Nations agencies had saved over $20 million per year against a one-time initial investment of $700,000. Also in response to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, the High-Level Committee on Management was embarking on an enterprise resource planning interoperability feasibility study.

21. UNDG had concentrated on coherent implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which was now being monitored through a single reporting framework with system-wide indicators. The framework had been developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the High-Level Committee on Management and UNDG. The latter two entities had worked together to finalize standard operating procedures for the second phase of the Delivering as One initiative, and had developed a plan of action outlining 55 critical actions that should be taken at Headquarters in support of those procedures.

22. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased to hear of the Board's efforts to promote a coherent system approach. The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in particular, would provide an opportunity to create genuine and enduring partnerships to address the specific challenges of remote countries. She asked how the Board might support that process in order to address the unique needs of all small island developing States.

23. Significant progress had also been made in implementing the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, particularly with regard to the introduction of standard operating procedures, the implementation of the Headquarters plan of action and the feasibility study on the system-wide interoperability of enterprise resource planning. She would be interested to know what stage the study had reached and when results could be expected.

24. Her delegation was also pleased at progress towards the use of joint procurement frameworks. She wondered to what extent United Nations procurement was handled by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), as opposed to individual agencies, and what steps the Board was taking to encourage joint procurement.

25. Lastly, it had been indicated that only 12 United Nations agencies made use of common treasury services. Given that the joint negotiation of favourable currency rates could generate considerable savings, she wished to know what the Board was doing to encourage use of the arrangement.

26. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) asked what had been the impact of the Board's efforts to assist countries in specific situations, such as least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked countries and countries emerging from conflict. In particular, he wondered whether the Board had made any progress towards the objective of ensuring that half of least developed countries could graduate to developing country status by 2020.

27. **Ms. Petrova** (United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination) said that the Board was working very closely with the secretariat of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. Its members were endeavouring to show that the United Nations system could coordinate its activities to establish broader partnerships for the benefit of small island developing States. For example, the Board was cooperating with the World Tourism Organization to explore ways to increase employment, create partnerships for investment in tourism and address health issues resulting from tourism. Such partnerships could bring economies of scale and ensure that the action taken was better targeted. Fifteen principals of the Board would be attending the Conference.

28. A working group headed by the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union had reviewed the terms of reference for the feasibility study on the system-wide interoperability of enterprise resource planning. A call for inputs had now been issued, and a first draft of the study should be shared with Member States by the end of 2015.

29. Procurement was increasingly handled jointly, particularly in the case of larger items such as vehicles. UNOPS played a prominent role in joint procurement, but regional service centres also helped to ensure coordination and create economies of scale.

30. There were currently 12 entities that made use of common treasury services, but that did not mean to say that the other organizations operated independently at every location. Several other entities were expected to join the common treasury services in the near future.

31. The Board was a coordinating mechanism for efforts to support countries in specific situations, and its subsidiary bodies were actively following up implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action). The High-level Committee on Programmes had been briefed by the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. It had drafted a progress report on implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and would discuss the topic at its thirtieth session, which would take place immediately before the midterm review of the Programme in early 2016. In the meantime, the Office of the High Representative would provide the Committee with regular progress reports.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.